

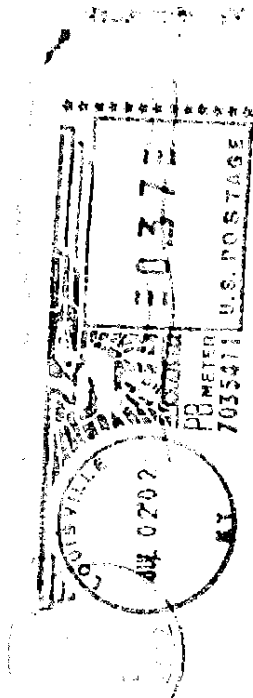
RE: ABERNATHY



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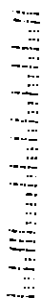
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02-150



The Honorable Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554


RE: WC Docket No. 02-150



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 **Greater Louisville Inc.**
The Metro Chamber of Commerce
600 W. Main Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40202-4201



Greater Louisville Inc.
The Metro Chamber of Commerce

July 2, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 02-150

Dear Chairman Powell:

I want you to know that I very much support BellSouth's desire to begin providing long distance service in Kentucky, and in fact throughout its southeastern service area. The Kentucky Public Service Commission has given its approval for BellSouth to offer long distance here, but now your agency's additional approval is required.

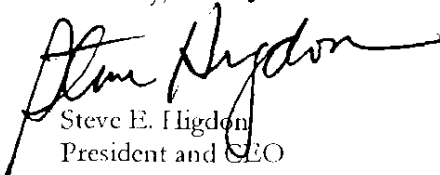
As you review your current caseload, I urge you to give speedy approval to SC Docket No. 02-150. I'm told this is the FCC filing number assigned to BellSouth's filing for Kentucky long distance service.

I know some people still seem to think that BellSouth is some kind of giant monopoly controlling all the phone lines in the southeast. My experience is quite the opposite – I see so many companies trying to provide phone service that it's clear the telecommunications business is now as competitive as any other. I understand that BellSouth has lost a big piece of the business communications market in Kentucky, and that BellSouth is actually a minority player in the business high-speed Internet market in our state.

I think there's a big issue of fairness here as well. I'm told that of all the telecommunications companies doing business in Kentucky, BellSouth is presently the only one that can't offer long distance services. This means that BellSouth can't compete fairly in the marketplace. It seems very unfair that some telecommunications companies have such a big lead on BellSouth in this regard.

Please join the Kentucky PSC in giving your OK to BellSouth's plans to offer long distance service in Kentucky, as filed in WC Docket No. 02-150. It's the right thing to do for Kentucky telecommunications customers.

Sincerely,



Steve E. Higdon
President and CEO

Copy: Representative Anne Mcagher Northup
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Michael Copps
FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin
FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
Dorothy Attwood, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau
Susan Pie, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

Confirmed
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